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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 09BUENOSAIRES1222, ARGENTINA: AMBASSADOR MEETS BUENOS AIRES MAYOR

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g.

**#09BUENOSAIRES1222.**

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">09BUENOSAIRES1222</a>	<a href="#">2009-11-12 20:59</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Buenos Aires</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1357063-eeuu-veia-una-oposicion-cercana-a-la-irrelevancia>

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4623  
INFO RUCNMR/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE  
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC  
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 001222

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/09/2029  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [AR](#)  
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: AMBASSADOR MEETS BUENOS AIRES MAYOR  
MACRI

Classified By: Ambassador Martinez for reasons 1.4 (b) & (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: Buenos Aires city mayor Mauricio Macri let slip to the Ambassador that he intends to run for president in 2011. He criticized the Kirchners for the failure of their economic model, for the country's growing crime problems, and for alienating the United States. He also reiterated past criticisms that the USG was "too soft" on the Kirchners. The Ambassador said Washington remained fully committed to deepening and strengthening relations with Argentina. Macri also reiterated an earlier invitation for the United States government to build a new site in prime real estate in downtown Buenos Aires. End Summary.

¶2. (U) Mayor Macri received the Ambassador for an introductory call at City Hall on November 9. He was accompanied by his Secretary General Marcos Pena, international relations advisor Diego Guelar (former ambassador to the United States), and city international relations department chief Fulvio Pompeo. The Ambassador was accompanied by DCM and polcouns (notetaker).

#### Macri's Take on the Kirchners

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¶3. (C) The Ambassador asked about relations between the city, the province and the federal government, particularly in coordinating police coverage and public security. Macri bluntly said, "There are no relations with the Kirchner administration at all." He said he would be meeting with President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner later that day, but that it was only the second time in almost two years that they have met. He said the GOA had not been receptive to city overtures to discuss jurisdiction responsibilities to be divided between the new metropolitan police force and the PFA. Indeed, Macri said he suspected the GOA was deliberately fostering havoc in the streets in order to sabotage his new metropolitan police force from the outset.

¶4. (C) The Ambassador said she had noticed in the press that a judge had dismissed charges against (Kirchner-allied "piquetero" social activist) Luis D'Elia for seizing a police station despite the strong evidence against him, including videotape of D'Elia. Macri said he considered the court ruling a prime example of judicial susceptibility to intimidation, but he also said he believed the decision would be appealed.

¶5. (C) The Ambassador noted that Macri, like many other Argentines she had spoken with, had used the word "fear" in describing the current political climate. Macri said the Kirchners often succeeded by bullying their opponents and critics, but now that 80% of the Argentine public reject the Kirchners, he thought the media were pushing back against the Kirchners where political and business leaders had not. He reprised an earlier conversation with then-WHA A/S Shannon regarding the need to set limits on the Kirchners' misbehavior and the USG's supposed "softness" on the Kirchners. He argued that the USG's "silence" on the abusive mistreatment it suffered at the hands of the Kirchners (such as at the 2005 Mar del Plata Summit of the Americas) had encouraged more of the same.

¶6. (C) Macri also ridiculed the Kirchners for touting an economic "model" that had left 30% of Argentines in poverty. "What kind of model is that?" he asked.

¶7. (C) Macri said the Kirchners had succeeded in alienating Washington to the point where Washington did not care what Argentina (unlike Brazil or Chile) had to say about anything. The Ambassador sought to disabuse Macri of that notion, arguing that Washington remained fully committed to deepening and strengthening relations with Argentina. She pointed out that Washington was keenly aware of Argentina's position in the world as an agricultural powerhouse and of Argentine cooperation, actual and potential. As an example, she cited Argentina's role in developing satellites to be launched by NASA as evidence of Washington's appreciation for the

high-tech value that Argentina could bring to bear.

Macri's Running!

18. (C) In discussing agricultural trade, Macri let slip his presidential ambitions for 2011. He said beef exports may not be an issue for the Kirchners (because they want to keep beef at home), but beef will be an issue for him in a couple of years (i.e., when he is president).

New Embassy Building?

19. (C) Macri also asked about USG plans to relocate the Embassy and referred to a previous offer to provide a site for a new office building. (The site is located in downtown Buenos Aires, less than two miles from the Casa Rosada, in an old industrial area that the city wishes to develop into an upscale neighborhood that would include a number of Embassies -- see 08 Buenos Aires 1564.) The Ambassador and DCM explained (as we did in late 2008 after consulting with Washington) that the Department was committed to finding a site that would conform to new security requirements, but that the size of the project and more pressing demands elsewhere meant that it would be several more years before the project could get underway in Buenos Aires.

Comment

10. (C) The meeting was another reminder of Macri's directness, his Manichean view of the world, and his discomfort with the niceties of interpersonal communication (he cut off the meeting abruptly after about twenty minutes). These are all qualities that he shares with Nestor Kirchner, his bitter political rival. Macri's insistence that the USG publicly reproach the Kirchners for their various transgressions suggests an unrealistic desire that Washington do the opposition's bidding. Nonetheless, the mayor remains one of the top contenders for the 2011 presidential race (arguably the second most competitive candidate, after Vice President Julio Cobos). We will continue to engage him actively as the elections approach.

MARTINEZ